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Observer

Central Washington University

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See our 4/20 coverage in the Evergreen Scene on page 2.



ASCWU election: the first debate



ASCWU candidates gear up for their first debate last Monday. Jamar Pelletier (left) and Jocelyn Matheny (right) are running for VP of student life and academic affairs.

By Eric Rosane
News@cwuobserver.com

Podiums line the fireplace in the SURC Pit where around 40 people circulate to witness 12 candidates compete for seven office positions, talking motives, debating motives and telling the Ellensburg community why they deserve their vote.

The ASCWU Election Commission

held their first debate last Monday, April 17 in the SURC pit for the community. This debate, which was the first of two, aimed at introducing the public to the candidates before the primary elections went live the next day at 12:01 a.m.

ASCWU Election Commissioner Eric Bennett was the mediator for this debate. Bennett sat behind a large, foldout table facing the podiums—a short microphone towered over sprawls of questions

and handwritten notes.

Presidential candidates J.R. Siperly and Giovanni Severino started the evening by speaking about leadership roles and student/administration relationships. With university budgets shrinking through legislation, the candidates detailed goals to make the needs of the college heard.

- See more of our first debate coverage on page 8

CWU B-ball coach resigns

By Natalie Hyland
News@cwuobserver.com

CWU head women's basketball coach Jeff Harada announced he is moving on to California State University Fullerton Monday, after three years with the program.

"I would like to express a very sincere thank you to Dennis Francois, who took a chance on me, as well as all the players who I've been fortunate to have mentored and coached the last three years," Harada told CWU Athletics. "Also to everyone who has embraced and blessed me with their support of the women's basketball program, I cannot thank you enough. The opportunity for me to take the next step in my career path to achieve my lifelong goals as well as get closer to home could not have been possible without Central Washington University"

- See "Resignation" on page 12

Drink up: craft brewing

By Miranda Cunningham
scene@cwuobserver.com

On Thursday, April 20 Bruce's Place, located in Ellensburg Pasta Co. on Main Street, will be hosting a fundraising event, CraftED Kittitas County, for the CWU's craft brewing program. The event will begin at 5 p.m. and continue until closing at 9 p.m.

Four local breweries will be supplying for the event, including: Iron Horse Brewery, Whipsaw Brewing, Roslyn Brewing Company and Dru Bru.

Each brewery will bring their own version of a Northwest Ale.

When the beers are served, the attendees will not know which beer belongs to what brewery; the goal being

to identify which beer belongs to the correct brewery.

The Northwest Ale is the beer that attendees will be trying that night, but this event will also be the beers debut.

Michael McCarthy, a junior in the Craft Brewing program, explained he is excited to taste the Northwest Ale, as well as try Roslyn's and Dru Bru's products, since he has not tried them before.

He is also interested in seeing how the event plays out he explained.

"It sounds really interesting and fun and it's a good opportunity for people who may not know a lot about craft brewing."

- See "Beer" on page 7



Jack Lambert/The Observer
Students practice brewing beer as a part of CWU's craft brewing program, which will see fundraising events today.

IN OTHER NEWS

Letter to the editor

A CWU junior history and Russian studies major responds to last week's opinion written by Ray Payne. He draws parallels between the current situation in Syria and the Iraq War.

- Page 6

Campus activities

Campus activities student workers continue to shine under interim director after Scott Drummond's retirement.

- Page 4

Salmon run

Museum of culture and environment host a 5k and 10k to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

- See Online

TRACK AND FIELD

CWU track and field host their only home meet of the season this Saturday. The event is called the Spike Arlt Invitational and will host teams from across the region.

- Page 13

NEWS

EDITOR: Ryan Kinker | news@cwuobserver.com

EVERGREEN SCENE



Reed Phillips/The Observer

All of Ellensburg's marijuana dispensaries will have deals on April 20 to celebrate 4/20, the greatest of all stoner holidays.

Happy 4/20 to all: Ellensburg events roundup

By Miles King

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April 20, 2017 will be just like any other Thursday this year for many people. For those who use marijuana, it has become a day of celebration and relaxation.

Many myths about the true origin of 420 exist.

"It was the police code for cannabis consumption," said Brittany Choyce, owner of The Green Shelf.

Other myths include relation to a Bob Dylan song and even tea time in Holland. According to Vice News and The Huffington Post, the real significance of April 20 comes from five California high school students in the 1970's who would smoke after school at precisely 4:20 p.m.

April 20, 2017 will be celebrated in the Ellensburg area by the local dispensaries and their valued customers. Several

of the local dispensaries have planned special events and exclusive sales for the unofficial holiday.

The Green Shelf in Ellensburg is hosting a grower event starting at 1 p.m. on Thursday. There will be cake served at 4:20 p.m. and "the grower is giving away swag" said Choyce.

The Green Shelf will also have special sales in store on April 20.

Green Shelf will offer \$2 and \$3 joints, \$5 infused joints, \$10 off edible packages, \$3 capsules and grams of oils starting at \$15.

Lastly, The Green Shelf will also offer \$75 ounces. The deals will start early on the 19 with "happy hour 4/20 specials" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. said Choyce.

Additionally, Cannabis Central in Ellensburg will be hosting a meet and greet cook-out from 10 am to 5 p.m. and a free lunch will be served from noon

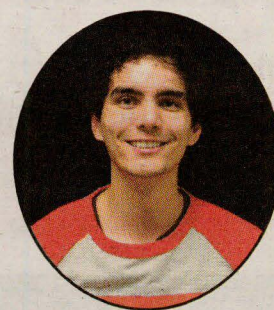
to 2 p.m., which local vendors will be attending.

The event will be a "cool opportunity to meet the people baking your cookies" said Cannabis Central owner Rob Hendrix. This event will also require valid identification.

Along with the cook-out, Cannabis Central will also have special deals on Thursday. Deals include five joints for \$20, Heavenly brand products are one gram for \$8 and two grams for \$15, five edibles for \$20, and ounces for \$150.

On April 21, Black Grenade Productions is hosting The Spring Reggae Show at Pounder's Party Hall in Ellensburg. The show will be from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Admission will require a \$5 cover charge, a spot on the guest list, and a valid 21+ identification.

Those who RSVP to the event on the Black Grenade Entertainment Facebook page will be placed on the guest list.



Observation Deck

Hello Wildcats,

How are you doing? Hope your week went well! By the time most of you read this it'll almost be Friday so hooray for that.

I had a thought as I was sitting alone in our windowless office: I haven't done a great job of introducing myself. Sure, I provided some background on for how I ended up in this position, but those are pretty small beans compared to the infinitely complex task of knowing another person.

So I thought I'd start there today as I write to you 2 hours and 38 minutes away from deadline.

Firstly, I'm a bit of a procrastinator. I'm not proud of it, but I still get my work done on time (usually).

I enjoy rock climbing. I'm a member of the CWU climbing team, which unfortunately isn't an official team, but you try convincing us of that.

We'll be competing at Whitman College this weekend against University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon and several others.

Sounds like an official team to me.

I'm sure some of you are curious how you compete in rock climbing. Most people, myself included, initially assume it's all about speed. There such a thing as speed climbing, but we compete based on difficulty.

Take a look at the rock wall in the SURC and you'll see numerous plastic handholds all labeled with various colors of tape. Each set of uniformly taped "holds" makes up a "route" which is given a point value proportional to how difficult it is.

Competitors receive the corresponding points for reaching the final hold while only using the specifically taped holds.

Teams can get pretty competitive, but at the end of the day you know you're doing it right if you had a good time.

Everything is made up and the points don't matter. We're all there to have fun and climb rocks, which we somehow made into a "sport."

I hate to be THAT guy, but rock climbing is far more a way of life

than it is a sport. There are fantastic documentaries about rock climbing that I couldn't recommend enough. Watch any "Reel Rock" film to get hyped up or "Valley Uprising" for the history.

But I digress. My main topic today is that rock climbing shouldn't be a sport or more specifically, an Olympic sport.

Rock climbing was inducted into the Olympics alongside skateboarding and surfing, which have their own issues.

I think that rock climbing could have been a really interesting Olympic sport if done correctly. I'm sure portions of the competition will still be great, as some of the best climbers in the world (those who decide to compete at least) climb world-class routes.

But there's a fundamental problem with how the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided the format. Each climber will be graded equally in sport climbing (climbing a 60 foot wall using ropes) bouldering (climbing a 15 to 20 foot wall without ropes) and speed climbing (climbing a standardized route as quickly as possible).

Sasha DiGiullian, one of the world's top climbers at 5-foot-2, summed up the issue in her Outdoor Magazine article released on March 16.

"Speed climbing has very little to do with more conventional rock climbing, beyond the fact that it involves a person vertically scaling a wall," DiGiullian wrote. "It's like mandating that marathon runners compete in the 100-meter dash to decide who is the best runner. It demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding about climbing from the IOC."

It's unfortunate that climbing is being mishandled in the Olympics and not simply because of the format. My main issue is that it won't be as fun for the competitors.

Several top climbers are debating whether or not they want to even compete and that's a verifiable tragedy. Because at the end of the day, it's all made up and the points don't matter.

We're all here to have fun and climb rocks.

Until next week Wildcats,

-Kailan, EIC

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Corrections: On page 5, the photo was taken by Reed Phillips and McConnell Auditorium is in McConnell Hall, not in McIntyre Hall as listed in the information box. Lynn Bethke's name was misspelled as "Betchke" on page 12. On page 12 in "A stellar exhibit", Dr. Jessica Mayhew gave the presentation, "The Things We Carry."

Editorial policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source for campus, entertainment and sports news. As a training program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (509) 963-1073 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com.

NEWS

EDITOR: Ryan Kinker | news@cwuobserver.com

Climate documentary comes to CWU

Racquel Rollins

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The reality of climate change is easy to ignore because we equate it with small, gradual changes or a polar bear on the last patch of ice in an open, barren sea. But documentarian Michael Nash looks to put a human face on climate change with his film, "Climate Refugees."

Next Thursday, April 26, CWU's Environmental Studies program is hosting Nash and playing his film. There will be a reception at 5 p.m. prior to the film and then a Q&A session with Nash afterwards.

He will also be showing new, updated footage, according to Pamela McMullin-Messier, program director of environmental studies. This event is a part of the Social Justice and Human Rights year-long dialogue on migration.

"It will be a unique opportunity for students to be able to ask questions and actively engage with the issues raised in the film," said McMullin-Messier in a Q&A session for the Publicity Center.

This film will be a good tie-in and lead off into environmental studies dialogue for next year: sustainability, McMullin-Messier said.

Climate change become

highly politicized and this has caused people to refuse to look at the scientific evidence behind the actual problem. "Facts are facts, what you do about it is political," Geography Professor Bob Hickey said. "Climate Refugees" brings the faces of those who are affected by climate change to the big screen and shows that it is a real issue that is affecting millions of real people. It shows that while often times climate change is a slow process, we can see the change. "If you can see it coming why not do something about it sooner rather than later," McMullin-Messier said.

Most climate refugees are from places such as Myanmar, Indonesia and the Maldives, a small island chain off the coast of India that lies at

sea level.

The facts associated climate change, such as ice melt, carbon emission levels and sea level rise, are often dismissed or ignored because many do not view it as a problem that needs to be dealt with, even though we are already facing many of the problems that arise as a result.

"Global change is a huge complicated issue," Hickey said. "Humans are not wired to think long term."

A climate refugee is someone who is displaced because of a change in environment. Whether it is a gradual change such as a rise in sea level or a sudden disaster, like a hurricane or earthquake.

Hickey said that America does not have thousands of people displaced by climate change annually, leading to refugees becoming a hotly contested issue.

"They're left with no choice, we in America do not understand this," Hickey said. "You move, you kill or you die."

Nash's film looks at some of these refugees: such as the survivors of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

The film will start at 6 p.m. on April 26 in the SURC Theater. There will be a reception held prior to the film and then a Q&A session led by environmental studies

faculty afterwards, where students can ask Nash about "Climate Refugees," as well as his other works.

According to an article written in 2015 by the United Nations Refugee Agency, since 2008 there are approximately 22.5 million climate refugees and some sort of natural disaster displaces about one person per second.

Global change is a huge complicated issue, Humans are not wired to think long term.

-Bob Hickey, geography professor

CWU SOCIAL JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUES: MIGRATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

CLIMATE REFUGEES

AN AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT THE HUMAN FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

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MICHAEL NASH

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CWU Center for Leadership & Community Engagement
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SPONSORED BY Environmental Studies Program, Provost Office, Douglas Honors College, Center for Leadership and Community Engagement, Continuing Education, Cultural and Environmental Resource Management Program, and Department of Geography

Courtesy of CWU Environmental Studies

"Climate Refugees" fits the yearly campus-wide dialog, Social Justice and Human Rights, which changes each year.

Climate Refugee Stats

-World Refugee Day: June 20 every year, created by the UN in 2001

-As of 2008, 22.5 million climate refugees exist worldwide according to the UN Refugee Agency

-As of 2015, there are 65 million total displaced persons worldwide according to the UN Refugee Agency

NEWS

EDITOR: Ryan Kinker | news@cwuobserver.com

Campus Activities rolling forward

Samuel Beaumonte
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When Scott Drummond, the previous director of Campus Activities, retired this February after 25 plus years in the position, Yessica Marquez took over as interim director with Director of Student Involvement Andre Dickerson.

"With the transition between Scott being gone, both Yessica and Andre have stepped up and done more than they possibly could," said Chris Martin, a special events coordinator for Campus Activities. "They do more than is expected or even asked of them."

While Marquez holds the responsibilities that Drummond previously held, by the time the official position is filled, the responsibilities and expectations may be changed.

While Drummond doesn't work for Campus Activities anymore, he's still working on passing all of his contacts over and doing what he can to help Marquez and the students.

"I think they are reworking the job description, even the title. Campus Activities will most likely look a little different," Drummond said. "Next year it will be new, as it should be. I saw the first description but after that I thought it was healthier for me



Xander Fu/Observer

Campus Activities students Chris Martin, Alyssa Harrell, Mia Patterson and Alexis Everett greet students entering the SURC Theater for Monday Movie Madness.

to start extracting myself. It has to be their process."

Despite the expected change, Drummond believes that the staff he left behind can handle the challenge.

"I tried to prepare my students before I left. I described it as 'my ripple would close' and they'd need to get used to the next person," Drummond said. "They're a real good, strong and capable

group. They've made me look really smart."

In the past two months since Drummond's departure, Campus Activities have kept up with all their programs and started to focus on creating smaller events.

"There hasn't been much of a challenge since Scott left," Martin said. "We've kept the same work ethic as when Scott was here. He was a great boss and a

great friend."

When asked, Dickerson said that Campus Activities is getting all of the support they need from both faculty and staff and --to their knowledge-- are meeting all of their student's needs.

While the next official position to head Campus Activities is uncertain, Drummond has left behind his contacts for events that bring in musicians, comedians

and various other performers along with a bit of advice for those interested in the position.

"Just jump in. Know the theory: Always be able to answer yes or no and why. You always want to be able to explain [what you do]," Drummond said. "It's always about the students first. It's [their] money so we're trying to protect it and stretch it as far as it goes."

Spring is in the air at Barto Lawn

Damian Day
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If you're looking for a place to hang out with friends or join in on an activity, Barto Lawn is the place to go.

Barto Lawn is located in the center of campus in front of Barto Hall and the Wellington Event Center. Thousands of students walk by it every day on their way to class.

It is a convenient location due to the many student dorms surrounding it: such as Barto, Anderson, Moore, Beck, Hitchcock and Sparks. Students can be found here playing baseball, frisbee or even volleyball, among other recreational activities.

If you get an urge to play volleyball out in the sun you now can.

OPR has put up a volleyball net in the center of Barto Lawn that can be used all day, every day, though after 10 p.m. the lawn dies down due to quiet hours.

Not only does Barto Lawn have a centralized location, but it is conveniently close to various food sources.

"If you get hungry or thirsty, it is only a 3-minute walk to the Student Union and Recreation



Xander Fu/The Observer

Barto residents partake in spikeball on a sunny spring day. Tuesday, April 18. In the background, other students play volleyball with a net from OPR.

Center (SURC), 7-11 and even Winegars," said Mariah Ladd, a sociology major.

People playing sports are not the only people you can find on the Barto Lawn, however. A group of tightrope walkers

have taken claim to the trees that line Barto Lawn to set up their slackline.

Omar Freemire, an aviation management major and founder of Sacred Winds-- a boffering club-- gives yet another use of

Barto Lawn.

"Barto Lawn is the best place for all my friends and club members that live in the north and south parts of campus to meet because it is right in the middle of the campus," Freemire said.

"I feel like Barto Lawn is the best location for club and school events because nearly everyone that lives on campus walks past it every day. I love it when people see us and ask to join in on the fun."

NEWS

EDITOR: Ryan Kinker | news@cwuobserver.com

Off-leash dogs imperil service animals

Natalie Baldwin

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Walking your dog through campus can be a fun activity. However, if you are not using a leash for your pet it can lead to dangerous situations.

Danielle Kuehn, a freshman who has a service dog named Yori has had a difficult time on the CWU campus so far.

Some problems that Kuehn is running into is having dogs off-leash on campus.

"The ones that are off-leash are obviously not under the owner's control. They can be aggressive and cause a distraction to my dog when she's just trying to do her job, which is keeping me safe," Kuehn said.

When asked what CWU students can do to help this situation, Kuehn said that signs would help to let students know that it's against school rules to have your

dog off-leash.

CWU students should know that walking to class or even walking around campus can make Kuehn feel nervous.

Kuehn wants everyone to know that they should always ask permission before touching the service animal

because even looking at the animal can distract it. The dog is here for Kuehn, not for other people or other animals.

Service animals are, "dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities," according to the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Information Center in the SURC has the right to ask if it's a service animal or not.

They can ask if the service animal is required because of a disability and what the dog has been trained to do.

It's not just people who use service animals who are upset, according to Adri-



Xander Fu/Observer

Service dogs serve in a variety of roles for students with disabilities, much like the dogs brought in for Paws and Relax.

enne Beverly, a senior at CWU and co-president of ABLE, who shares Kuehn's concerns.

ABLE, which stands for Access Belonging Learning Equality, provide self-advocacy and awareness for people with disabilities.

ABLE has plans to put up dog leash signs says Beverly; it has been a problem for a while now.

"ABLE has not personally reached out to facilities or campus police about this issue because we were under the assumption that Disability Services were the ones handling this issue."

However, Beverly did mention that the last time she spoke to Disability Services they had not heard back from facilities.

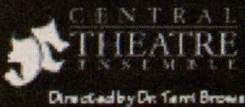
ABLE Spring Meetings

Date: Every Wednesday

Where: SURC Meeting Room 271

Time: 5 p.m.

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL



Directed by Dr. Tami Brown

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CWU Wildcat Shop

cwu.edu/theatretickets

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OPINION

EDITOR: Kailan Manandic | editor@cwuobserver.com

Letter to the editor: regarding the Syria opinion

By Luke Ramsey,
a junior history/Russian
studies major

When I read the recent edition of the Observer and saw you'd run an opinion piece praising the attack on Syria, I was troubled.

I'm an older transfer student, and as such I have a major benefit that many of our students might not have. I remember the 2003 Invasion of Iraq and the prelude to it.

In all our discussions of Syria and our news reports, I've been struck by something that chills me to the bone. When we were sold a war that has since destabilized the region, there was evidence.

Colin Powell went before the United Nations and showed us pictures, satellite images, and so on. Obviously none of this was legitimate and none panned out, but contrast it to now.

The United States government hasn't presented any evidence. We've had a lot of very definitive statements and a lot of posturing, but no actual records.

We've had no medical reports, no radar records, not even satellite footage.

What has come out of Syria is sad to see, but could be a dozen things besides Sarin. Particularly since the United Nations was granted Assad's stockpile to destroy, with verification. In fact



A photo illustration by Patrick Feller taken in 2013 taken during a presidential speech regarding military action in Syria. Feller can be found on Flickr under his page name "Patrick Feller".

it's also suspicious to me to see that a bunch of people without gloves are spared the contamination of a dramatically lethal agent that is spread through skin contact.

In response to this we spent over one hundred million dollars. That amount could sky-

rocket further and further, and with it the number of dead.

If you don't care to follow the civil war in Syria in more detail, in which case you'd see a great number of innocent people have died for the reason that wars cause suffering, then at the very least you should learn from

Iraq.

I always thought that Iraq would be our great tragic failure. I never suspected after so many flag-draped coffins and so much suffering that we'd be ready to do it all again at the drop of a hat.

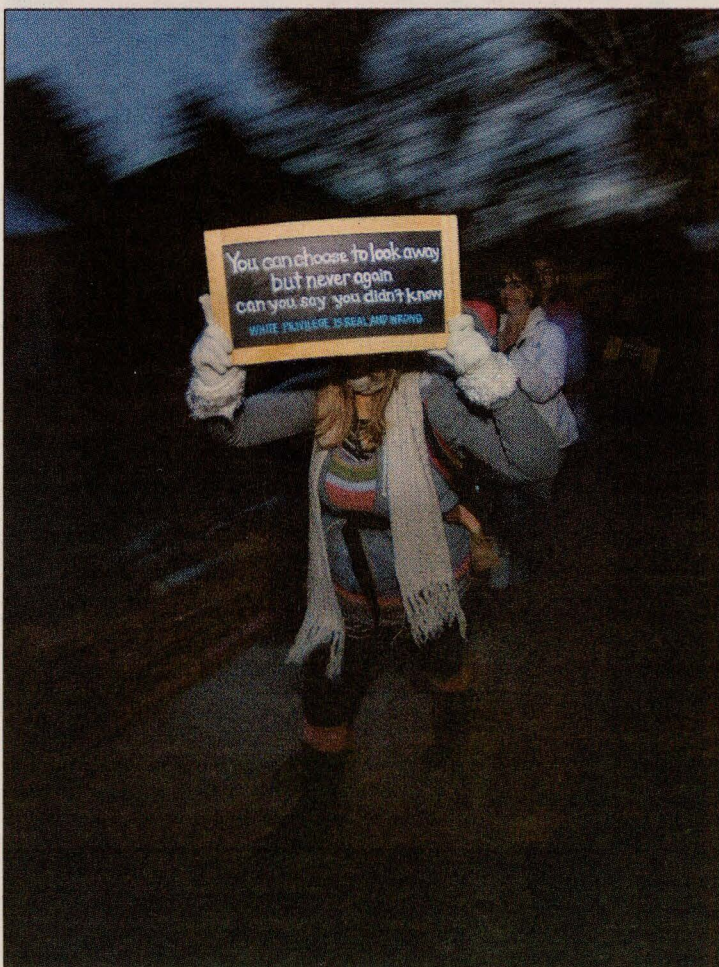
Have we learned nothing, or

did we so quickly forget the lessons we learned?

As the unknown future of a Trump foreign policy progresses, I hope that all my fellow students will stand firm against the expansion of costlier foreign wars.

-Luke Ramsey

Letter to the Editor: an apology



By an anonymous
student

To the Muslim woman or man,

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for the bigotry and hate that has been thrown at you by fellow Americans and even fellow CWU students.

I'm sorry that leaders in our country have made it their goal to kick you out, even when you have done nothing to justify this.

I'm sorry people make videos targeting your beliefs and your culture and try to demonize it. I'm also sorry that people in our country and others try to demonize you and say that you are a danger when you have done nothing wrong. Yes, there are people who try to use Muslim beliefs to justify their means of killing people, but there are also people who try to use Christian, Hindu, etc. ideology to justify them killing people.

But these few do not represent the whole of Islam or Christianity or any other reli-

gion. What they do doesn't define you or your belief system and I'm sorry if anybody claims otherwise.

To the person who has ever been sexually assaulted or abused,

I'm sorry that our culture deems it okay to objectify women and treat them as an object, or "property".

I'm sorry that the porn industry and our culture in general has normalized using physical force to get what they want. I'm sorry that sex is exalted in our culture over true agape love and that some will do whatever it takes to have it. You bear scars that many of us could never imagine, but you are loved. Not because you are attractive or a woman or a man or whatever, but because you are you.

To the African American or any other person who has been criticized, victimized or treated as second-class citizens because of your race or ethnicity.

I'm sorry that people with practically the same genetic makeup consider you below

them because of the color of your skin. I'm sorry that people feel the need to assume things about you when they don't even know you.

I'm sorry that you are pushed out of your home or your city because you "look different". I'm also sorry that people draw conclusions about you like that you are a criminal, or you are good at math or whatever other judgment people place on you just because of what some people THINK represents your entire race or ethnicity. I'm also sorry to any person who has been ostracized because of their heritage, beliefs, or choices. I know that extremists don't represent you or your culture.

I may never fully understand what you have gone through and what you will go through in life, but I just wanted to say I'm sorry, I love you and I am for you, regardless of our differing backgrounds and beliefs.

With love,

A Christian saved by grace and love

Jack Lambert/Observer

A protestor seen carrying a sign at the Not In Our Kittitas County peace march last fall.

Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com



Jacob Gerken/The Observer

The Wildcat pizza has pepperoni, Canadian bacon, sausage and bacon, perfect for fans of meat-lovers pizza.

OBSERVER REVIEWS

The crust has risen

By Susie Chavez

@SusieMagicSocks

When thinking about the experience of eating pizza, what comes to mind is a cheesy, saucy, gooey slice of pizza.

But when you take the first bite, the pizza crust will either make or break the experience. For example, the pizza crust at the SURC before they changed their recipe.

In 2006, CWU Dining Services introduced a wood fire pizza oven to Taglianno's Pizza.

"When the new SURC opened in 2006, I remember the pizza being good because it was a New York style crust, but in 2011 the[y] switched to a pan pizza and it was not as great as before," said Mila Chavez, a 2015 CWU alumna with a degree in information technology and administrative management.

Even CWU Dining Services Supervisor Jim Clapper said, "Ten years ago, when the wood fire pizza oven was introduced, kids went crazy for the pizza and it was one of the busiest stations at the Central Market Place."

When I started attending Central Washington University in 2012, I remember the SURC pizza not being up to par.

Last quarter when I worked at the pizza station, Destiny Towery, a freshman anthropology major, said, "North Village Café has better pizza than the SURC, because North Village Café has cheese stuffed crust and a garlic butter crust."

CWU Dining Services values customer feedback and took these suggestions into consideration, which lead to a change in the pizza crust recipe.

Spring is typically seen as new beginnings and fresh starts. That is why the new pizza crust was not introduced until spring quarter, even though it was decided midway through winter quarter that a change would be implemented.

For the past five years, the Central Market Place was using a pan pizza crust, which defeated the purpose of the wood

fire pizza.

The new crust is again a New York style crust, which is traditionally thin, hand-tossed and is dense and bread-y. The New York style crust gives the wood fire pizza oven more of a purpose since the thin crust is cooked sitting in the oven rather than in a pan in the oven.

Junior public health major Myrinda Wolitarsky said, "Before the new pizza crust, I would tell my friends that they could get anything in the SURC except for the pizza, but now the pizza is really good because of the crust."

There are about 27 pizza recipes available at the Taglianno's Pizza station with different daily specials varying each day. Typically, six different types of pizzas are offered each day that are sold by the slice but different types can also be custom ordered by purchasing an entire pizza.

The six types of pizza that are usually offered are: cheese, pepperoni, chicken bacon ranch, Hawaiian, a dessert pizza and a daily special that changes every weekday.

The Central Market Place also switched to a new gluten free pizza crust as of this quarter. The new gluten free pizza crust is made of chickpea, rice and potato flour. The gluten free crust is thicker and bigger than the gluten free crust that was being used the past couple of years.

CWU Dining Services Executive Chef, Derek Smith said, "The responses about the switch have been nothing but positive and students seem to be really happy."

Later this quarter, the Central Market Place will be introducing flatbread and cheese stuffed breadsticks to the menu that will be offered regularly.

Keep your eyes peeled for the changes coming to CWU Dining Services throughout the quarter. Any suggestion, questions, comments or concerns can also be submitted to the suggestion boxes located in the Holmes Dining Room and in the Central Market Place.



Jack Lambert/The Observer

Students in the craft brewing program learn the importance of hops on the taste of different brews.

"Beer" from page 1

The CWU craft brewing program became an official bachelor's degree at CWU on April 20, 2015 and the event held this Thursday will celebrate the two year anniversary of the program.

CWU is the only school in the state that has this program. The benefit is being held because craft brewing is new and the faculty of the department want to collect funds for new equipment and to expand the program.

When customers enter the event they will be encouraged to buy the CraftED package supplied for the event, that way everyone who attends can get a sample of each of the beers.

The \$12 package includes a CraftED flight, a tasting sheet and a coupon for a free pint of your favorite NW Ale and the glass it comes in. The glasses are specially made for each brewery so attendees can choose their favorite.

In addition, Bruce's Place will be preparing different dishes for each beer according to what the breweries think would compliment the brew.

After each attendee tastes samples the beers, they will fill out the tasting sheet and try to pair each beer with the brewing company.

For every correct answer, tasters will receive a raffle ticket. Raffle drawings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will occur every 30 minutes after.

The prizes are "swag bags" which will contain items such as cups, shirts and other merchandise from the four breweries. They will also be giving away tickets to the brew fest Iron Horse is hosting next month.

Katie Kuntz, program manager of the CWU craft brewing program, explained that the event is more about bringing the brewing community together rather than being a competition.

"It's supporting the craft beer industry, and for [supporting] the craft beer community and for the love of [the] craft and the craft brewing program," Kuntz said. She also added that Bruce's Place is heavily involved in the local brewing industry. They always serve a

large selection of locally brewed beers and often do tap take overs with other breweries, so it is the perfect location to have the event hosted.

Bruce's Place is known for serving craft beer, explained Tyler Harris, the general manager at Bruce's Place and Ellensburg Pasta Co. Every month the bar does a tap take-over and feature a specific brewery, some from all over but mostly northwest breweries.

According to Harris, he is always trying to find a way to incorporate local breweries into these events but it would have been counterproductive because they can just go down the street and get the same beer for the same price.

This event allowed him to involve local breweries and support the brewing program. Harris added, "That's [a benefit] a first for us as far as a pub night, is having it be a benefit night so we are excited."

CraftEd Benefit

When: April 20, 5 p.m.

Where: Bruce's Place

Prices: \$12 for package



James Stuck/The Observer

CraftEd will offer samples of different local beers.

ASCWU Candidates

- Continued from page 1

Podiums line the fireplace in the SURC Pit where around 40 people circulate to witness 12 candidates compete for seven office positions, talking motives, debating motives and telling the Ellensburg community why they deserve their vote.

The ASCWU Election Commission held their first debate last Monday, April 17 in the SURC pit for the community. This debate, which was the first of two, aimed at introducing the public to the candidates before the primary elections went live the next day at 12:01 a.m.

ASCWU Election Commissioner Eric Bennett was the mediator for this debate. Sat behind a large, foldout table facing the podiums—a short microphone towered over sprawls of questions and handwritten notes.

Presidential candidates J.R. Siperly and Giovanni Severino started the evening by speaking about leadership roles and student/administration relationships. With university budgets shrinking through legislation, the candidates detailed goals to make the needs of the college heard.

“The biggest part is getting administration to support the students, because the students support the administration by coming to college and spending money,” Siperly said. “We’ve gotta work together in order to ensure that goals of individuals are being met, as well as college mission statements.”

Severino shared the same sentiment regarding student representation in Olympia, but stressed the importance of building an inclusive environment.

“We do have to recognize that CWU is a big part of Ellensburg, therefore we should try our best to influence what happens in the town, in order to make sure that all students feel safe and welcomed here,” Severino said.

Executive Vice President candidate Alex Horning and Vice President for Clubs and Organizations candidate Stan Southern might have not been running against each other—in fact they are both running unopposed—but that

didn’t stop them from covering issues such as budgeting clubs and focusing on student engagement on campus.

“That’s the first and foremost thing that I want to focus on this year, is making sure that we’re following our CWU’s to make sure that the state funding is done appropriately,” Horning said.

Another focal point Horning spoke of was ensuring that all 33 committees that the VP for Clubs and Organizations oversees are properly funded and represented.

Southern chose to emphasize student involvement and retention in clubs, stating student involvement as a priority to his office.

“The way I’m going to try to address that is trying to make sure that we have more events where we actually display clubs. [And] make sure that we’re able to be out there and engage with everyone else on campus,” Southern said.

Vice President of Academic Affairs candidates Maurice Watkins and Edith Rojas spoke on the subject of weighing student concerns with the ever growing student population and how the candidates might respond to these prominent concerns. Both Watkins and Rojas insisted on increasing transparency in their roles, stating that this position will help students feel more secure with their concerns and comments.

“That would be my main focus, to just be clear and provide an open space for students to present their concerns at all times,” Rojas said.

Watkins went another route on dealing with concerns, stating that the efficiency of communicating with the students starts with how the community treats the students.

“In order to make that possible, you have to start with the community. You have to make sure that everyone feels safe and welcomed in this environment,” Watkins said.

Vice President of Student Life and Facilities candidates Jocelyn Matheny and Jamar Pelletier spoke using campus space efficiently and bringing about

a greater sense of equity to the student body, especially for those students who do not have the resources to succeed or even attend classes at CWU.

“I think it would be really easy, as a university, for us to provide equality,” Manthey said. “I think that we, as an institution, have recognized that and we’ve also recognized that we can be better than that... and be more accommodating to students that need more than the baseline.”

Pelletier stated that he felt as if proper accommodations were a foundation of ASCWU’s job and that there can always be more done to improve in that aspect.

“Our job really is to put students in a position to where they can succeed and that really, student government as a whole, should be our main goal,” Pelletier said.

Vice President of Equity and Community Affairs candidates Taylor Tahkeal and Myrinda Wolitarsky both discussed providing more opportunities to the community of CWU as well as providing more inclusive spaces to students and people of the community.

Tahkeal emphasized extensions to educational opportunities to marginalized people in the community, and said that without these educational opportunities many of the students who attend CWU won’t have the ability to perform to the best of their abilities.

“At CWU, I would definitely plan on educating people first because you cannot have the skill, you cannot know what voice [and] what side you want to take without that education. I believe in education before accusation,” Tahkeal said.

Wolitarsky wants to extend more educational opportunities to the public and bring awareness of these problems to the community as a whole.

“Equality, I think that we have done a decent job at bringing that to students—we’re giving them that basic platform. Equity is something that we can continue to strive for and giving those marginalized students something more,” Wolitarsky said. “I think we can do better

and strive for more in those opportunities.”

Vice President of Legislative Affairs candidates Michael Scott and Justin Francesco talked about their experience in representing students, lobbying and legislative affairs. Both candidates have worked in CWU Legislative Affairs to some extent and both were very adamant on keeping a strong CWU presence in Olympia.

Scott spoke on his experience with trying to pass House Bill 1433, a bill that would give students more freedom to determine what they spend on service and activity fees and how he would fight to keep student’s voices in Olympia.

“Allowing the students to have our own autonomy over our fees is one of the first steps,” Scott said. “One of the things that I value most is open communication and having that between us and our administration, giving the students the autonomy... gives students the equitable voice they need.”

Francesco wants to push for a dedicated Lobby Day and hopes that more people will get involved with legislative affairs. Francesco hopes to dedicate two charter buses to this day and wants to bring the CWU perspective straight to Olympia’s doorstep.

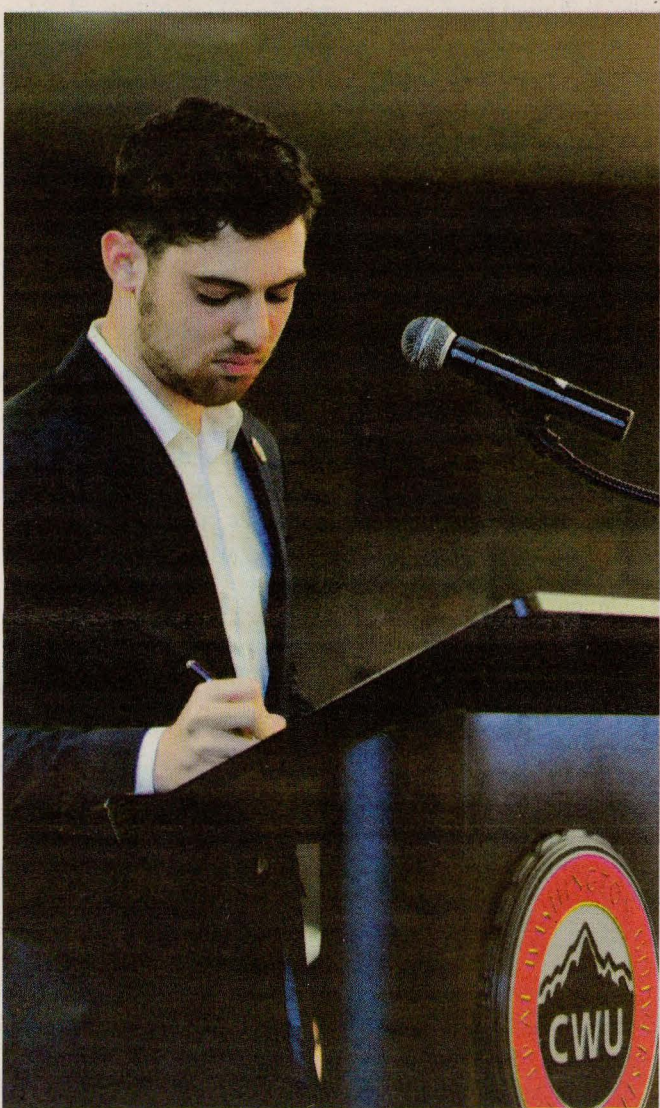
“I believe that we can do more when it comes to Legislation. Being apart of the Washington Student Association... I feel like seeing their success, especially with Westerns, where they brought a lot of students [to Olympia],” Francesco said. “My first lobby day, I was afraid of talking to senators, but really taking ownership and understanding that they represent us. They are our voice, so they need to learn about our story and perspectives.”

All candidates will be eligible for the general election and voting will begin Wednesday, May 24. Candidates will be at a Club Senate Forum on Wednesday, April 26 and will be answering the public’s questions on Tuesday, May 9 at the only public forum. Locations for these events have not been released thus far.



Photos by Xander Fu and Jack Lambert
Layout by Taylor Morrell

Presidential candidate J.R. Siperly and Executive President candidate Alex Horning watch as VP of Legislative Affairs candidates Justin Francesco and Michael Scott debate on April.



“The biggest part is getting administration to support the students, because the students support the administration by coming to college and spending money.”

-Presidential candidate JR Siperly

Clockwise from top left: VP of Student Life and Academic Affairs candidates Jamar Pelletier and Jocelyn Matheny, VP of Equity and Community Affairs candidate Myrinda Wolitarsky, VP of Student Life and Academic Affairs candidate Jocelyn Matheny, VP of Equity and Community Affairs candidate Taylor Tahkeal, and VP of Legislative Affairs candidate Michael Scott.



Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com



Xander Fu/The Observer

Fighters can choose their own weapons and whether they want to dual-wield or wield a two-handed weapon during a fight.

“Welcome Challengers”

Members of Sacred Wind gather to fight to the “death” to relieve stress throughout the quarter

By Alex Palacios

@CWUObserver

Stress and college often go hand-in-hand, as students face like heavy homework loads, tuition and busy schedules. An essential part of a successful college career is knowing how to release that stress through a safe, healthy outlet.

Omar Freemire, a senior aviation management major, recognized that need for stress-relief during finals week and decided he wanted to do something for his community.

Freemire, armor-clad in a shining silver chest-plate, hosted a mini “boffering” session in front of the SURC last quarter.

Boffering, which is often confused with Live Action Role Playing (LARPing), is a sport that focuses on forms of combat. Participants wield a variety of weapons from swords to spears to throwing knives.

The weapons consist of a pole for structure, foam covering the body—the part that people get hit with—and duct tape or fabric covering the foam.

When he first decided to create the event, Freemire simply stood in front of the SURC and challenged people to a duel. After that, he decided to have fellow students and friends Martin Ward, an undeclared freshman and Nathan Freeze, a freshman aviation management major, help him as his “squires”—people who help out their knights.

Ward and Freeze’s duties include bringing the gear to the meet-ups, if Freemire can’t make it.

Together they decided to get a sign-up sheet to gauge interest, which gathered a turnout of

Meeting Information

When: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.

**Where: Barto Lawn
Facebook Group: Sacred Wind**

over 200 people.

Due to all of the student attention, Freemire decided he would start a CWU boffering club called Sacred Winds. With a week’s worth of time during spring break on his hands, Freemire did something productive and handmade all the club’s weapons.

Sacred Wind’s armory currently includes a few spears, javelins, swords and shields. “It was easy and it cost about \$70 total,” Freemire said.

Boffering does have specific rules that promote safety, despite the focus on combat.

If someone gets hit in the arm or leg, than that limb cannot be used for the rest of the fight. However, if a fighter gets hit in the neck or torso than they are dead and the round is over.

Headshots are not allowed at any time, which helps prevent the fighters from getting injured. There are no official referees, so fighters must be honest about the “injuries” that occur during the fights.

There are a few other objectives to the boffering rather than just all-out fighting. There are one-on-one battles, two-on-two, group style or protect the king. However, regardless of the scenario, if someone gets hit with

a foam sword and everyone laughs it off.

Some students may hold reservations about participating in the sport, according to Freemire.

“It kind of falls into the nerd demographic,” Freemire said.

The members of Sacred Winds know it, but couldn’t care less. They are often laughing, smiling and swinging at each other without a care on the Barto lawn.

When the group gets together, they choose their weapons and just go at it.

“More and more people keep showing up and the more people that show up, the more we get to enjoy it,” Ward said.

Sacred Winds is not recognized as an official club of CWU. There are papers to fill out, official rules to be written and the safety of students keeps CWU hesitant, Freemire said.

Freemire and Ward aren’t worried though. They think they’ll easily be sanctioned when they decide to go forward in the process.

Joining the group is easy and simple. It has a closed Facebook group for people to join and the members meet on the Barto lawn at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; however, the times can change depending on the members’ schedules.

“I think the longest we played out here was probably five hours,” Freemire said. “Everyone is welcome to join.”

Freemire is enjoying his last year at CWU and is not at all worried about the future of the club.

“It’s a cathartic experience and all the people here just enjoy being in each other’s company,” Freemire said.



OBSERVER HEALTH

Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

Is douching healthy?

Dear Student,

No, student, douching is not healthy. Although Center for Disease Control (CDC) research finds that nearly 1 in 4 women in the U.S. douche, most doctors strongly recommend against it.

“Douche” simply means to wash; women use douches to “clean” their vagina, although vaginas are self-cleaning machines and genitals really don’t need much more than warm water and a washcloth.

Douching products come pre-packaged, usually with water and vinegar or other similar substances that, on their own, aren’t inherently unhealthy.

However, douching involves squirting this mixture into the vagina (which does, ultimately, come back out the same way), which disrupts the natural pH balance that keeps vaginas healthy.

Although no research has found benefits of douching, these products are commonly sold riding the coattails of pervasive myths that vaginas are inherently dirty and needs to be kept clean.

The CDC reports several common health issues linked to douching, including vaginal drying and irritation, bacterial vaginosis (BV), pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), problems during pregnancy (like preterm birth or ectopic pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections.

Say what?! Cleaning vaginas increase risk for STIs? That’s right, friends, because douching can irritate the vagina, upset the vaginal flora (natural ecosystem), and increased risk for BV and PID, women who douche are more susceptible for acquiring an STI—so don’t do it.

I’ve heard of people erroneously thinking that douching can prevent pregnancy or an STI after sex and, well, it’s just not true. Vaginas self-clean with the production of mucous, which washes away “foreign” substances, like any potential STI-carrying semen that may come into contact with the vagina.

For women who douche and happen to have sex with someone with an STI, the vagina’s self-defense is compromised and cannot even attempt to flush out the potential infection. Of course, the self-cleaning aspect of the vagina should be not used as an excuse NOT to use condoms, but it is to say that

douching can increase the risk for STIs.

I think the idea that vaginas need to be douched stem from the same crazy perception that pads and tampons should be scented.

Vaginal odor is not something to be tamed or eliminated through unnatural products or perfumes. All vaginas have an odor—even, or should I say especially, healthy ones.

If you’re concerned about the specifics of your vaginal odor, talk to a doctor or other medical provider. Some STIs cause discharge that can affect odor, and if something seems amiss—like your natural odor changes drastically or it’s accompanied with an unusual discharge—it could be a sign of a health issue.

Like I mentioned, genitals (the outside of the vagina, but this goes for male genitals, as well) really just need warm water and a washcloth or your hand to maintain cleanliness.

Penises are better equipped to handle a gentle soap, but nothing with harsh dyes or fragrances should be used. So avoid douching, keep with water and mild soap and fight against the stigmatization of the vagina in its natural state.

How do I know if my girlfriend has an orgasm?

Dear Student,

I get asked this question all the time. Interestingly, or perhaps not so, it’s always from men. Women who have sex with women tend to have a leg up on this area.

And it’s one of my all-time favorite questions because the answer is just so simple: you ask her! Yes, it’s really that easy. For whatever reason, it’s highly unpopular for people to ask their sexual partners if they’re enjoying themselves.

But guess what, people tend to have better sex when they are on the same page as their partner, when each person genuinely cares about the enjoyment of the other. Why guess whether your partner is having a good time when you can just ask them? Forget what you’ve seen in the movies and just ask your girlfriend.

Of course, your girlfriend may or may not know... which I’ll address in next week’s column when I respond to a woman who isn’t quite so sure if she is having orgasms. Stay tuned!

Dr. Jill Hoxmeier is a public health professor at CWU.

Send anonymous public health and sex-related questions to askdrh@cwuobserver.com and have them answered here.

Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com

Dont "waste" your time

By April Porter
@CWUObserver

Earth Day is about taking one day out of the year in celebration of our planet; doing what we can to care for our planet and keep it healthy.

The day before Earth Day, April 21, the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) will host an event to help young students learn how to be environmentally friendly. Fifth graders from Mt. Stuart Elementary will participate in ElemenTree on Saturday at Olmstead State Park to learn about Earth Day, recycling and the history of the park.

ElemenTree volunteers will leave CWU at 10 a.m. and the event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Three different fifth grade classes taught by Jason Eng, Jamie Hurter and Cynthia Hillburn will be attending and cycling through the different activities run by the volunteers.

"The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement is working with Olmstead State Park, Mid-Columbia Fisheries, and Kittitas County Solid Waste to provide a safe, fun and effective learning environment to en-

gage fifth graders from Mt. Stuart Elementary in Earth Day," according to the CLCE goals on the ElemenTree plan sheet.

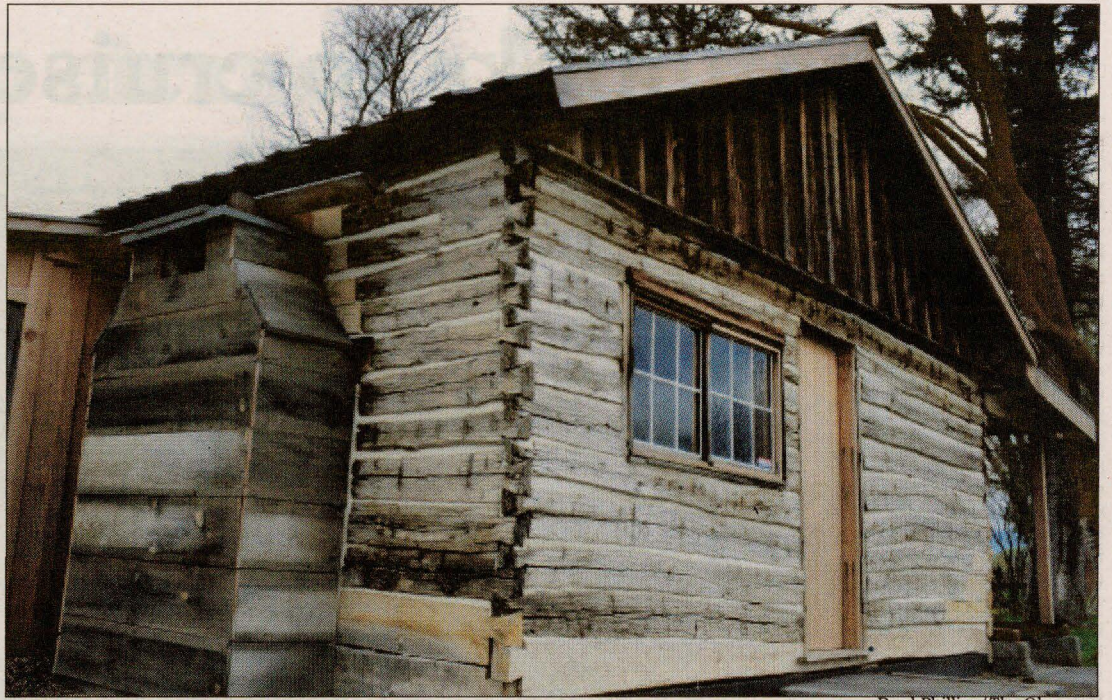
The ElemenTree event has been going on for a few years. Kim Jellison, CLCE program manager, said she knew Eng, and built the Earth Day event through that connection with the school.

Jellison has asked other elementary schools in the valley if they would be interested in having the ElemenTree event at their facility, but many of the schools already have programs in place.

This is a way education majors can get, "hands-on experience," Jellison said.

Though ElemenTree is a chance for education majors to get some hands-on experience with teaching, anyone is welcome to volunteer for the event.

The list of volunteers for this year's program includes 13 CWU students and three staff members from CLCE. These volunteers will help lead the fifth graders through three different activities that are planned for the day. The student volunteers are being led by first-time ElemenTree runner Garrett Swatzina, a senior secondary social stud-



Reed Phillips/The Observer

Olmstead State Park, where ElemenTree will take place, has several antiques including an old cabin and farm equipment.

ies teaching major. He started working in the CLCE department in September of 2016 and has helped with other events but this one is new to him.

The activities include a compost bin activity put on by Kittitas County Solid Waste Program, a watershed model with Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the solid-waste scavenger hunt created by Swatzina.

"I want the kids to know how to take care of the environment," Swatzina said.

The scavenger hunt splits one of the classes into two teams to collect laminated pictures of objects. The objects are hidden

and the fifth graders must find them and put them in either the garbage bin or recycling bin. The team with the most objects at the end wins.

Swatzina is excited for the kids to experience the scavenger hunt he created and learn to invest in the environment so it can be better for their kids in the future.

Swatzina has met with the different partners to plan the activities. He has also helped coordinate the time and place as well as get the t-shirts and provide the students with transportation.

In past ElemenTree events horses have been brought to show how plowing was done

back when there were no machines. A hiking event has been done where they show the kids why they need to stay on the trail so they do not destroy any vegetation. This year will focus more on the different ways to recycle and take care of the earth in the way of throwing away garbage and recycling.

Swatzina also explains the importance of taking care of the parks in Ellensburg. "College students don't have a lot to do in Ellensburg," Swatzina said. Keeping up the parks will allow for students to continue to have a place to go to enjoy the outdoors.

"They carried all they could bear, and then some, including a silent awe for the terrible power of the things they carried."

An evening with author and Vietnam veteran

Tim O'Brien

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EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Baseball looks to cruise past Crusaders

By Sabrina Wheelhouse

Sabrina.Wheelhouse@cwu.edu

The Wildcats are currently 23-15 overall and 17-11 in the conference which puts them tied at second with Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in the GNAC standings.

The last time the Wildcats faced NNU, they walked away with one win in back-to-back doubleheaders on March 10 and 11.

"We did a lot of things well, but also did things that cost us some runs," assistant coach Scott Stone said. "We're looking forward to getting back on the field for a good week of practice and having a good series against NNU this weekend."

During their last weekend of GNAC play, the Wildcats came away with a 2-2 record versus Saint Martin's University. CWU lost its first game Friday 18-11 and their last game Saturday with a score of 8-1.

"We need to re-focus our approach on the plate after last weekend and hone in on our defensive fundamentals

while also fixing errors that costed us a couple games," Stone said.

NNU is 19-19 overall and 17-11 in conference play. Ranking them tied for second in the GNAC standings. They came away 3-1 against No. 6 Concordia University (CU) in a weekend of games on April 14 and 15.

Kyle Blankenship, Pitcher

ship, a senior pitcher, has a good feeling about the upcoming series against NNU. He played a helpful role during the previous series which guided the team to a win. Blankenship pitched two perfect innings of relief for the Wildcats during game three.

"We have definitely gotten better as a team after playing them the first time around. We struggled this weekend but if we play to our ability we should have successful weekend and a good outcome," Blankenship said.

Before they face the Wildcats, NNU will face CU on April 15. CU currently has a 9-29 season record with a

"We have definitely gotten better as a team after playing them the first time around."

-Kyle Blankenship, Pitcher

"We struggled this weekend but if we play to our ability we should have successful weekend and a good outcome."

-Kyle Blankenship, Pitcher



Jack Lambert/The Observer

No.1 CWU pitcher senior Jake Levin (24) throws a pitch during a game against Montana State University Billings.

7-21 GNAC record. The Wildcats faced CU on April 8 and 9, coming away with a 4-0 record.

"I think this weekend we can expect the guys to come out and work hard and leave it all out on the field. Just have to

build off last weekend and put it all together fielding, hitting and pitching wise and hopefully win this series," Blankenship said.

After the series against NNU, the Wildcats will be home again to take on Western Oregon University.

CWU vs. NNU

When: Friday and Saturday

Time: 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Where: CWU Baseball Field

Softball preps for toughest test yet

By Alanna Inzunza

alannainzunza@hotmail.com

The CWU softball team looks forward to their upcoming coming GNAC games this weekend. The Wildcats will face Saint Martin's University (SMU) on April 22 in Lacey, WA and on April 23 in Ellensburg.

The CWU softball team currently has a record of 31-7, with a GNAC record of 18-2, giving them the No. 1 standing in their series. SMU is currently in No. 2 with an 11-7 record.

"They're a very talented team, they've got a talented pitching staff," head coach Mike Larabee said. "We're going to have to bring our very best."

The Wildcats have yet to meet SMU this season.

The team came back from a series against Montana State Billings (MSUB) over the weekend.

The Wildcats went 4-0 versus No. 6 MSUB. CWU won their first game 11-1 and the second game 3-1 on Friday. On Saturday, CWU defeated MSUB 10-1 during the first game and 5-3 during the second.

We "played really really well. Swung the bats really

well, kinda adverse conditions at about 20 to 30 mile an hour winds," Larabee said. "Our pitchers did a great job, we just gave up six runs in four games so about a run and a half per game which is incredible."

SMU is 11-7 in conference games and 19-13 overall. They came away 3-1 against Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) last weekend.

Senior pitcher Kiana Wood pitched five innings, allowing six hits and only giving up one run in three innings. Wood became the second player in conference history to earn GNAC Pitcher of the Week for the third straight week.

"She's not an overpowering pitcher," Larabee said. "She's not striking out seven or eight or nine a game, but she's very seldom to make really good contact because of where she locates."

The Wildcats and Saints both have strong teams ready to leave it all out on the field.

"I'm expecting a really good game," Wood said. "The fact that we're No. 1 and they're No. 2 it's going to be a very good .

In preparation for the upcoming game Wood describes the hardest thing about pitching for games.

"Not knowing what to expect from a batter," Wood said. "A lot of our coaches tell you about stats and stuff, but you never know what a batter is going to do. Like if they're going to have a good game or a bad game."

The team is looking forward to clinching the No. 1 seed during this GNAC series. Compared to last year when they got the No. 2 seed.

"We have our eyes set on hosting the regionals," Larabee said.

The Wildcats will leave for Lacey, WA hoping to come back with more wins.

"I'm looking forward to getting more victories," Wood said.

'Cats vs. Saints

Saturday:

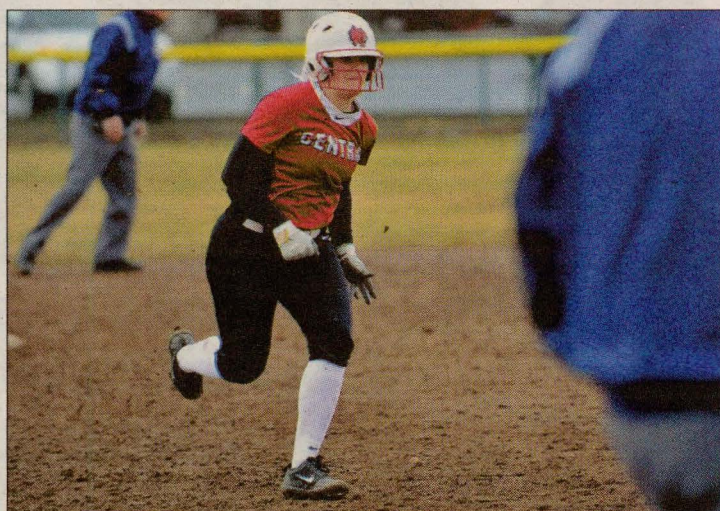
Place: Saint Martin's

Time: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday:

Place: CWU

Time: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.



Xander Fu/The Observer

The Wildcats played their "home" games in Selah last quarter because of snow.

SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

CWU community cleans up Yakima River

By Andrew Kollar

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Buses packed with almost 300 students and community members filled the Yakima River Canyon for the 44th annual Yakima River Cleanup last Saturday, April 15.

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) was in charge of getting almost 300 students and community members to clean the Yakima River Canyon, in addition to coordinating with organizations, such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The volunteers were stationed at various locations on the river from Big Pines to Helen McCabe, all of them doing different jobs such as cleaning up litter, planting trees, and re-staining information boards. Every volunteer had a purpose and a job to do, maximizing the amount of work in the given time.

Garret Swatzina, a CLCE employee majoring in high school social studies education, oversaw 44 volunteers at the Big Pines recreation site. The primary focus at Big Pines was to clear the boat launch from debris, paint and re-stain the information boards, and pick up trash around the campsites.

"It [volunteering] makes a huge difference with how many people we get involved. I'm

pretty sure that last year alone we removed something like two tons of trash from the Yakima Canyon," Swatzina said.

Swatzina was a volunteer last year, because he enjoyed making a difference in the community and wants to take pride in the area that he lives. This year through the CLCE, he was involved in setting the event up and was placed in charge of the Big Pines location. Although setting up an event of this magnitude presented challenges-- including a few stressful meetings and many emails that coordinated the cleanup-- Swatzina is happy to help other people get involved in community service.

"It's important to maintain and sustain what we have left of our environment," Swatzina said.

Another partner in the cleanup was the BLM, an agency that focuses on keeping the recreation sites around the United States pristine. Rusty Gates, a specialist in natural resource and recreation, was at the cleanup as a representative of BLM and was excited to be involved with students and encourages the university to reach out for future projects.

Gates' job includes recreation planning, which entails planning for new trails and recreational events and the other half is dedicated to being out in the field and maintaining recreation areas east of the Cascades.



Courtesy of Hunter Ventoza

This photo was taken at Helen McCabe State Park as many volunteered to clean up the Yakima River for the 44th straight year.

"Our busy recreation area is the Yakima River Canyon. It gets super busy in the summertime, because a lot of people come out and float the river," Gates said.

Every volunteer had a different reason for helping with the cleanup. Brandon Scott, a junior studying geology, was in charge of cleaning the boat launch of debris on Saturday. He believes that if you enjoy the outdoor sites, it's your responsibility to give back.

"It's good to spend more time outside and give back and

make sure the natural areas are pristine as possible," Scott said.

Freshman Madison Gerichs was placed on the campsite-cleanup team and was enthusiastic about helping the community while interacting with people.

"I think it's important to volunteer, to participate and meet other people and see what our community does and to see what Rusty Gates does and how important his job is to keep the environment clean," Gerichs said.

Whether you are volunteer-

ing because you feel an obligation to give back to the areas that you utilize, or you are volunteering because you like to help the community and interacting with people, the volunteers helping with the Yakima River Cleanup were having fun while cleaning up one of Washington's most treasured river valleys.

If you missed the Yakima River Cleanup and would like to volunteer for the Ellensburg Downtown-Cleanup on Saturday April 22 you can find more information at takeactioncwu.com or at their office in SURC 256.

CWU track readies for first home meet

By Simo Rul

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The CWU track and field team will host their first home meet of the year at Tomlinson Stadium on Saturday April 22.

The Wildcat men and women are coming off of a weekend in Spokane, Washington where the women as a team finished in first place with 157 points, and the men ended up in third place with a score of 79.25.

Senior thrower Armando Tafoya finished second in shot put and third in the hammer throw at the meet in Spokane.

Being at home helps because there is no travel and the team can get to their comfort level which could lead to better throws, Tafoya said.

Tafoya said his mindset going into the first home meet is to throw as far as he can.

"Slow season, so hoping to throw a big one here," Tafoya said.

Sophomore jumper Brooke Williams won the triple jump competition at the Puget Sound Shotwell Invitation, while also finishing third in the long jump.

Williams is upbeat about being at home and performing in front of some familiar faces.

"It's really exciting, all of us love the home meet; it's really a

good opportunity to have [our] fans and a lot of our families come, so it's a big deal to us," Williams said.

It's big to take the opportunity that's there to perform well, and also if the weather is good that also helps, Williams said.

This time of the year is big for everyone to do well, because they are competing to make it to the conference tournaments.

"We're at that midpoint of the season where things are starting to amp up as we move towards GNAC's Championships," Williams said. "All of us are looking for good marks and I think it's a really good time of the season."

Junior jumper/sprinter Ali Anderson competed and finished second in long jump at the meet in Spokane. Anderson also got to second place in the Heptathlon at the Pelluer Invitational.

Anderson has had good performances, and taking that momentum into this meet could help going forward.

"It's really big, I just want to be consistent, and keep doing good, and keep building off of each day," Anderson said.

Anderson said she wants to re-break her school record in the 400 hurdles.

Being home is a positive and



Luis Pineda/The Observer

CWU is hosting during their only Track and Field meet this season. The event is at Tomlinson Stadium where the football games are.

helps the athletes because they feel good about competing on the same track that they practice on.

"The rest factor, not having to be in a van for a couple hours right before, that's just the non-travel advantage I guess,"

Adkisson said. "I think they like being on the home track, that's one of those ones like they're familiar with every inch of the track. Those who are runners, same thing for field event, this is where they practice all week long, so they're super comfort-

able."

The expectations going into this meet is they want to set everyone up to do their best, Adkisson said.

Last week the Wildcats competed against Division I schools, and getting confidence from that.

SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Soccer continued to grow as a team

By Mitchell Johnson

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As the CWU women's club soccer team heads 160 miles east to Eastern Washington University (EWU) over the weekend, the club has the same thing in mind—win.

"In our minds, it's trying to get the best outcome possible," junior center midfielder Daisy Merida said. "We always go into any game at any tournament wanting to win."

C W U will be playing against Washington State University Tri-Cities and EWU.

Each team will play each other twice with the top two teams meeting in the final.

"I think just take care of our bodies," junior striker Claudia Brasino said. "Just be focused, have the team ready, prepared and be motivated."

With a tight travel budget, the team picks the most deserving players to travel with the team.

"Going in fresh against the [tournament field] I believe we

can sweep them pretty well," coach Eddie Olivera said.

During their fall season, the team lost 4-1 to the University of Washington (UW) a school that has four times as big of a pool to choose from than CWU.

"We think about their division sometimes," Brasino said.

A couple weekends ago, the team had a much better result in a rematch with UW. They got a 1-1 draw, while not having many substitutes.

"We know each other much better now so we should be able to play more as a team."

—Daisy Merida, Center Midfield

This would turn into a big moral victory for the team.

"A lot of the girls were down

because they thought they were scared they'd lose by that much again," Olivera said. "They were playing very well, connecting passes, keeping possession."

UW also has an advantage being able to practice outdoors year round, unlike CWU. Between the fall and spring soccer season, the team is forced to practice indoors with the snow covering the Alder Recreational Complex.

"Going into Eastern we're

going in to play the same mentality—the same as when we played UW," Olivera said.

During the winter months the team does gym and indoor soccer training.

"We basically just scrimmaged the whole time," Brasino said. "We didn't really get to do technical footwork."

A three-month break from outdoor competition could hurt team chemistry on the field, but in this case it did not.

"I think that's when the chemistry [peaked]," Olivera said.

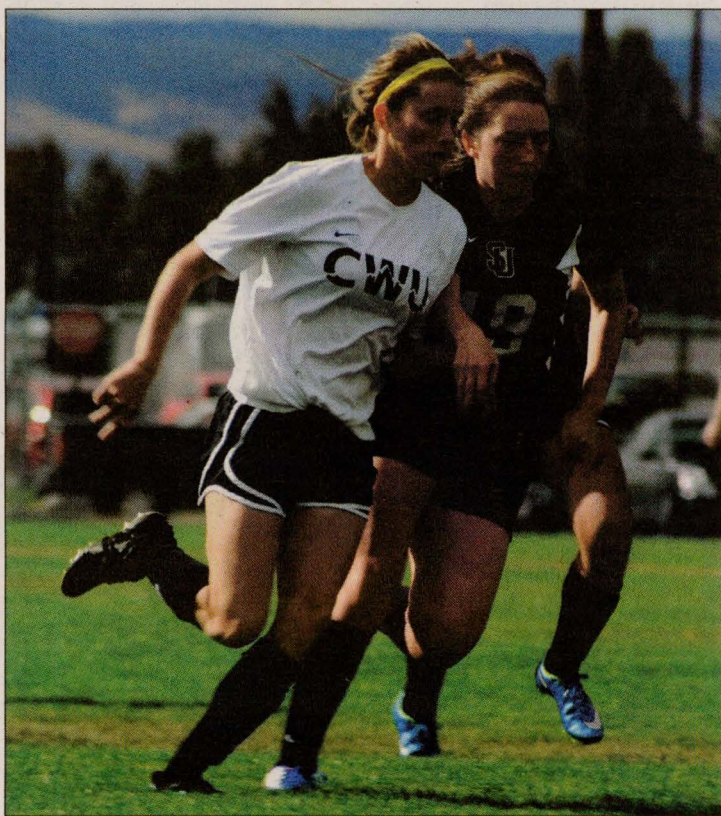
Merida thought the team started off struggling with team chemistry at the beginning of fall, but by the end of fall the team began to sit their stride.

During fall practices, Olivera had the team work on getting the right touches on passes and finding ways to score. Now they are working on being well-conditioned.

"I expect us to come together and play together," Merida said. "We know each other much better now so we should be able to play more as a team."

The team also spends time with each other on the field.

"A lot of the girls hang out outside of soccer which is really cool," Olivera said. "The men's team just come and play."



Xander Fu/The Observer

Stephanie O'Hara runs past a Seattle University player during a fall game.

Clubs congregate to Eastern WA

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Where: Eastern Washington University

When: April 22 and April 23

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SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

"Resignation" from page 1

Harada is leaving the program to be the head coach at Division I California State University Fullerton who finished this past season 4-25. A situation Harada is familiar with considering CWU had never made it to the GNAC tournament before he took over.

In his time at CWU, Harada has lead the Wildcats to a 44-42 record and has taken the team to the GNAC tournament every year he has been with the pro-

gram, before that the team had won only 25 games in three years.

"He made sure to tell us in person Friday before he left. He wanted to make sure we knew first," said junior guard Jasmine Edwards.

Harada held a team meeting Friday afternoon to let the team know about his decisions before taking off for Fullerton for the weekend.

"Initially I think confusion and a little bit of shock since they were caught off guard. After talking through some things, they were gracious enough to say they understood why this was happening and they were happy for me, but I'm sure they

were experiencing a range of emotions at the same time," Harada said.

The team has already begun to push to get assistant coach Randi Richardson to take over the program as they all feel she is more than qualified. In the meantime, Richardson will be taking over as the interim head coach until a new coach is found and hired.

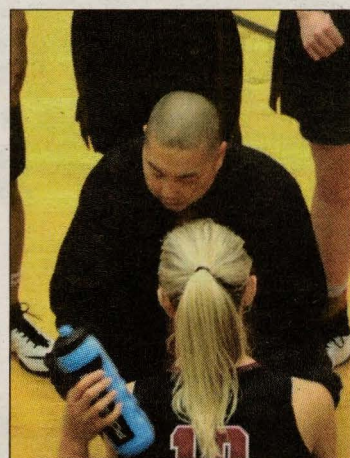
"A few of us have already sent in letters to the athletic department asking for Randi to be the head coach, we love her and all trust her," junior forward

Taylor Baird said.

Harada is leaving this team better than he found it and in the right direction and reminded the girls he will always be there for them.

"Obviously I'm going to continue to be one of their biggest fans and though I'll be cheering from afar, they know I'm only a phone call or text message away," said Harada.

The athletic department said they will begin this process as soon as possible and are already looking for a replacement in hopes to find a new coach by mid-May at the earliest.



Courtesy of CWU Athletics
Harada during the GNAC Tournament.

Rodeo heads to Ellensburg this weekend

By Natalie Hyland

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Rodeo teams from all over the Pacific Northwest will gather in Ellensburg this weekend—from Friday, April 21 to Sunday, April 23—for a chance to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo in Wyoming.

The CWU Rodeo Team returns to the Kittitas County Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena for the 19th annual CWU Rodeo. Seven years after the inaugural event in Ellensburg, the rodeo took on its current name: the Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo in memory of Todd Anderson, who died in an apartment

fire in 2003.

The team—who competes as a member of the Northwest division of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association—returned from the Northwest Regional No. 3 and No. 4 competitions in Milton-Freewater, Oregon which took place April 15 and 16.

Each day will begin with the slack portion of the competition, which features events like: calf roping, team roping, barrel racing and steer wrestling.

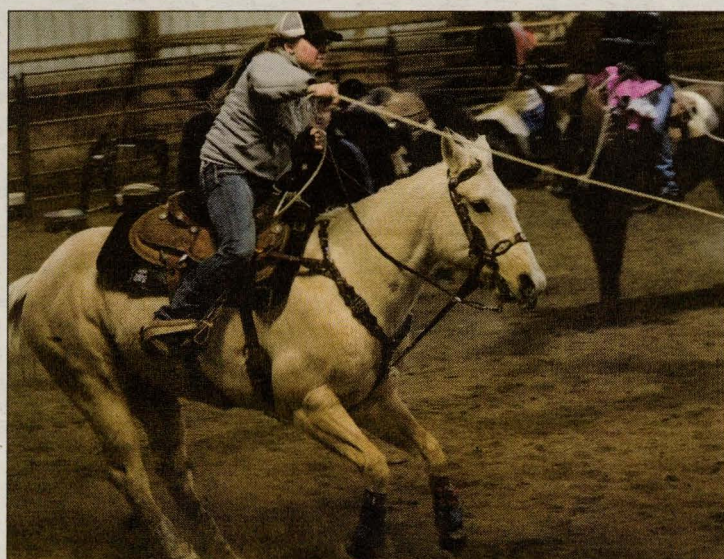
After the slack events conclude, the three-day event will feature performances by the rodeo team on April 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., a per-

formance and silent auction on April 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. followed by a tribute to Anderson that evening.

The proceeds from the silent auction will all go to benefit the Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a current or incoming student who wishes to be a part of the rodeo program and participate in events for the CWU team.

The lone event on April 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will be a championship round of events to qualify for nationals.

The entire weekend of events is free to the public.



Elizabeth Weedle/The Observer
CWU Rodeo Club will be hosting an event this weekend at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds.

It's that time again!

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